

New Bern, N.C. First Presbyterian Church

Sesquicentennial Year.

DIV. S.
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N534S

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First Presbyterian Church

NEW BERN, N. C.

1817 — 1967



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SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR

New Bern, N.C.
First Presbyterian Church

NEW BERN, N. C.

1817 — 1967

THE REV. J. MURPHY SMITH, Thm.
Minister

SESQUICENTENNIAL YEAR EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1967

- Introduction to Year of Celebration
- 8:00—Meeting in Sanctuary
- 9:00—Reception — Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1967

- 11:00—Sermon: Dr. Ben Lacy, Grandson of The Rev. Mr. Drury Lacy, one of the early Pastors of this Church

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1967

- HOME COMING
- 11:00—Sermon by —
- 1:00—Dinner on Grounds

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1967

- Drama depicting the History of the Church

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Donald R. Taylor, Chairman; Miss Mary P. Ward, Mr. Harold Maxwell, Sr., Mrs. C. B. Beasley, Albert Marshall, Mrs. William A. Sherratt, Mrs. Wiley T. Crawford, Virgil Curry, Keith Grady, and A. K. Kolb.

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THE PAST SPEAKS TO THE PRESENT

As we read the history of our church we see many evidences of faith and loyalty on the part of those who built and labored here through the years. One such evidence is seen in the fact that twenty-five members would construct a beautiful sanctuary that would seat eight hundred people. May the heritage that we have received from them inspire us today to greater faith in Christ and a deeper and more meaningful commitment to His Church.

J. Murphy Smith, Minister

LIST OF MINISTERS

The Rev. Lemuel D. Hatch	1822
The Rev. Michael Osborn	1829
The Rev. Samuel Hurd	1831
The Rev. Drury Lacy, D.D.	1834
The Rev. Moses D. Hoge	
The Rev. J. O. Steadman	
The Rev. J. D. Mitchell	
The Rev. Daniel Stratton	1838
The Rev. Thomas Frazer	
The Rev. Thomas G. Wall	1854
The Rev. Moses T Harris	
The Rev. Thomas G. Wall	1858
(No Pastor during Civil War — 1861-1866)	
The Rev. L. Cummings Vass, D.D.	1866
The Rev. C. G. Vardell	1891
The Rev. Geo. L. Leyburn, D.D.	1896
The Rev. H. S. Bradshaw	1901
The Rev. J. G. Garth	1906
The Rev. J. N. H. Summerell, D.D.	1908
The Rev. Robert E. McClure, D.D.	1929
The Rev. Hubert Morris	1943
The Rev. J. Murphy Smith	1951

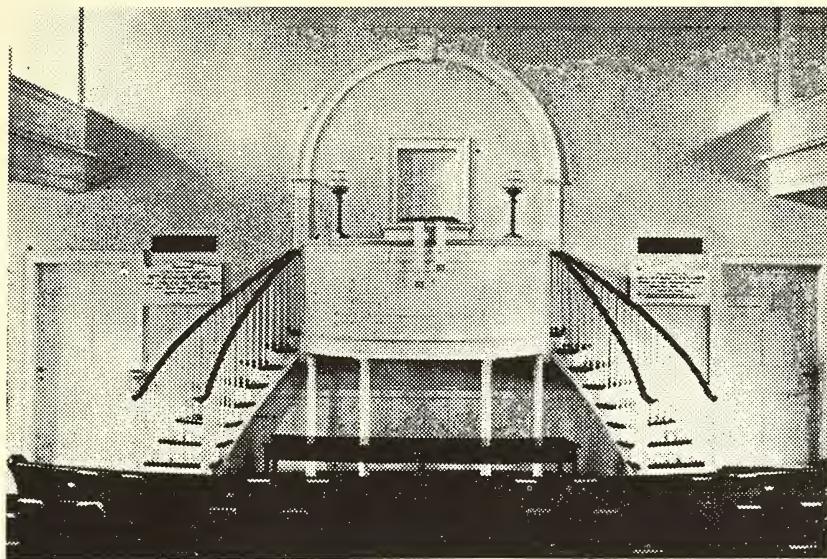
MINISTERS WHO HAVE GONE OUT FROM THIS CHURCH

Monroe Allen	John W. Primrose
William Neil	Dr. William Hollister — Medical
Thomas Watson	Missionary
Nehemiah H. Harding	Jim McKinnon

CHARTER MEMBERS

Dr. Elias Hawes, Robert Ray, *Ruling Elders*

Mrs. Eunice Hunt	Mrs. Lucretia Hollister Bell
Mrs. Sarah Webber	Mrs. Jane Carney
John Jones	Mrs. Mary Dewey
Mrs. Frances Devereaux	Mrs. Louise Morning
Mrs. Elizabeth Minor	Mrs. J. C. Stanley
Mrs. Lydia Steuart	



RESTORED PULPIT—1936

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ELIAS HAWES,
EDWARD GRAHAM,
ISAAC TAYLOR,
JOHN JONES,
WM. HOLLISTER,
VINE ALLES,
ROBERT HAY,
S. M. CHESTER,
ROBERT PREMOS,
SCALISTER BROWN,
L. C. KING,
CRAS. DENEY

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of remarkable men, Etc

ORIGINAL PURCHASERS OF PEWS.

46.			34. J. C. Stanly.
45.			33. J. C. Stanly.
44. ○	23.		32. ○
43.	21.		31. Mary McKinlay.
42. ○	20.	William Hollister, 9.	30. ○
Frederick Jones. 41.	19. E. Dickson.	Elias Hawes.	29. Silvester Brown.
40. ○	18. Elias Hawes.	E. Graham.	28. Jno. T. Boyd.
39.	17. Isaac Croom.	Eunice Hunt.	27. George A. Hall.
John Franklin and Thos. Sparrow, 38.	16. R. Primrose.	Isaac Taylor.	26. Moses Bears.
George Kuhl. 37.	15. Robert Hay.	Elias Hawes.	25. J. G. Cuthbert.
Wm. Handcock. 36.	14. John Jones.	John Devereaux.	24. ○
35.	13.		23. ○
Strangers' Pews.	12. ○	Bishop.	Strangers' Pews.
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SCALE OF VALUATION.

Nos. 3 to 9, and 14 to 20, inclusive,	\$350
Nos. 2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 21 and 22,	300
Nos. 23 to 30, and 35 to 42, inclusive,	200
Nos. 31 to 34, and 43 to 46,	" 150



THE REV. JOHN KNOX WITHERSPOON, A.M., D.D., LL.D.
Founder of this Church, 1817.

The Rev. John Knox Witherspoon, A.M., D.D., LL.D. Born at "Pembroke" plantation near New Bern in 1791, died in Hillsborough, N. C., 1853. He was educated at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and at Princeton University in N. J. In 1827 he was made Stated Clerk of Orange Presbytery where he also served as Moderator in 1822, 1827 and 1831. In 1836 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church elected him Moderator.

He was the son of David Witherspoon, Lawyer of New Bern, and his wife, Mary Whiting Jones Nash, widow of Gov. Abner Nash. The Rev. John Witherspoon, the only Minister to be a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, who was also President of Princeton University was his grandfather. He also was a lineal descendant from The Rev. John Knox. In 1813 he was married to Miss Susan Davis Kollock of Elizabethtown, N. J.

In addition to organizing the First Presbyterian Church in New Bern, he organized, or helped to organize the First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, in Greensboro, and one in Bethlehem.

The following are partial lists of those who have served as members of the Session and on the Board of Deacons. It has been impossible to find records of complete lists. Many of these served numbers of times as members of both groups.

THE SESSION

Dr. Elias Hawes, 1817	G. A. Barden, Sr.	J. E. Slater, Jr.
Robert Hay, 1817	C. L. Ives	A. B. Vick
George Allen	W. F. Aberly	F. M. S. Patterson
Charles E. Slover	Wm. M. Bryan	E. H. Wood
C. E. Foy	G. A. Ives	C. A. Dees
William Hollister, I	W. W. Miller	J. R. Bell
T. A. Henry	H. G. Carpenter	J. E. Jerritt
D. F. Jarvis	P. O. Jarvis	J. T. Hollister
W. H. Bray	Wm. Hollister, II	C. H. Francis
W. B. Ellis	R. S. McGeachy	John B. Jennette, Jr.
S. W. Smallwood	S. P. Watson	Frank Almon
W. L. Hand	Henry Grady	F. C. Shearin
J. D. Claypool	J. G. Ormsby	William Rowe
M. DeW. Stevenson	H. G. Reeves	F. P. King
C. S. Hollister, Sr.	T. A. Uzzell	Wm. H. Bell
G. N. Ives	L. J. Gossard	B. L. Walker
H. B. Smith	A. D. Garner	J. A. Meadows
D. L. Latta	Guy H. King	D. E. Deichmann
E. F. Menius	W. A. Peterson	J. W. Safley
T. G. Hyman	A. D. Ward	Allen P. Olmstead
E. A. Wood	N. M. Baxter	Gene D. Miller
J. M. Aberly	Wallace E. Jones	Raymond Henderson, Jr.
C. S. Hollister, Jr.	Braxton S. Oliver, Sr.	E. C. Howard
T. G. Gossard	A. K. Kolb	Fred H. Bailey
Harold Maxwell, Sr.	W. E. Ramsey	

THE DIACONATE

Claudius E. Foy	Wallace E. Jones	C. L. White
Alexander Miller	A. D. Ward	John N. Peterson
George N. Ives	J. B. Jennette, Jr.	J. A. Andrews
Charles L. Ives	L. Grady McCotter, Jr.	Frederick H. Bailey
E. K. Bryan	Frank Almon	C. S. Weskett
D. F. Jarvis	C. H. Francis	Emmett Whitehurst
C. S. Hollister, Sr.	O. H. Guion	G. C. Honeycutt, Sr.
A. R. Dennison	J. T. Hollister, Jr.	Allen P. Olmstead
William Hollister, I	Earle P. Smith	Ralph Kellum
W. B. Ellis	F. W. Carmichael	Lee Howerton
T. G. Hyman	E. C. Howard	J. W. Safley
C. E. Slover	B. L. Walker	Stanley Humienny
John B. Lane	Hilton Hudnell, Sr.	D. E. Deichmann
C. T. Hancock	F. J. Patterson, Jr.	Clarence Gault
C. S. Hollister, Jr.	Ray Henderson, Jr.	Gene D. Miller
G. Allen Ives	James L. Menius	Norman Mitterling
P. O. Jarvis	William Rowe	Henry Semmler
Edgar Rivenbark	Hilton Hudnell, Jr.	Olney Bersch, Sr.
John B. Ives	Hugh G. Swan	B. H. Baxter
William Hollister (Dr.)	W. A. Peterson	David S. Henderson
H. J. Carpenter	Braxton S. Oliver, Sr.	M. B. Pope
E. H. Wood	J. W. Aberly, Jr.	Sam Messer
R. H. Smith	Harvey L. Daniels	Clarence Beasley
A. E. Surloff	W. O. Bersch	C. Neil Vester
G. A. Barden	S. M. Torrence	Wm. A. Sherratt
Wm. M. Bryan	F. C. Shearin	George Pate
C. E. Foy	John Thomas	Wm. B. Smith
Harold Maxwell, Sr.	Wm. H. Bell	Paul King
W. W. Miller	G. M. Burroughs	Walter Oates
N. M. Baxter	F. P. King	Donald Varner
J. R. Bell	Harry W. Shelton	<i>Wm. Kellum</i>

CHURCH DIRECTORY—1967

J. Murphy Smith, *Thm. Minister*

Miss Catharine Latta	.....	Director of Music
Charles H. Francis	.....	Organist
Mrs. Binford L. Walker	.....	Secretary
Mrs. D. E. Deichmann	.....	Pastor's Aid
Leroy Whitehead	.....	Janitor

THE SESSION

Frank Almon, *Clerk*

C. S. Hollister, Jr.	Raymond Henderson	D. E. Deichmann
J. W. Safley	A. K. Kolb	C. A. Dees
A. P. Olmstead	F. G. Almon	E. C. Howard
Wallace E. Jones	J. E. Slater	F. H. Bailey

Elders Emeritus: W. W. Miller and J. R. Bell

THE DIACONATE

Donald R. Taylor, *Chairman*

S. J. Humienny	Robert P. Holmes, III	A. H. Marshall
H. A. Tate	H. W. Shelton	J. R. Rankin
S. C. Thomas	J. S. Bryan	L. A. Corning, III
C. S. Weskett	J. L. Menius	Wm. F. Ward, Jr.
S. M. Hughes	Donald R. Taylor	Norman Mitterling, Jr.

Deacon Emeritus: Wm. M. Bryan

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wm. M. Bryan	.....	Harold Maxwell, Sr.
Mrs. N. M Gibbs	Wm. Hollister	Mrs. Mark Stevenson

CHOIR

Miss Betty Aberly	Miss Jane Latham	Mrs. Vera Summerill
Mrs. C. B. Beasley	Mrs. Florence Lewis	Mrs. Hugh Tate, Jr.
Thomas Evans	James L. Menius	B. L. Walker
Mrs. Mark Foster	Norman Mitterling, Jr.	Mrs. Wm. F. Ward, Jr.
Mrs. C. L Gault	Mrs. J. W. Safley	Jackie Waters
Miss Susan Henderson	Mrs. R. E. Whitehurst	Mrs. J. C. Williford
S. M. Hughes	.....	.....

THE CHURCH SCHOOL COUNCIL

Joseph E. Slater, Jr., *Superintendent*

Alva J. Waters, *Assistant Superintendent*

Mrs. C. H. Francis	Wm. A. Sherratt	Miss Jane Latham
.....	Mrs. T. J. Abbott	.....

TEACHERS

Mrs. J. A. Meadows	Mrs. Henry Byrne	J. N. Peterson, Sub.
Dr. F. P. King	S. M. Hughes	Mrs. J. E. Slater, Jr.
Mrs. Wm. A. Sherratt, Sub.	Miss Jane Latham, Sub.	Mrs. L. W. Howell, Sub.
J. A. Thomas	Mrs. F. P. King	.....
J. N. Peterson, Sub.	Mrs. L. W. Howell, Sub.	Mrs. S. M. Hughes
A. K. Kolb	Miss Hannah Weskett	Mrs. Ray Henderson, Sub.
Mrs. Stevie Hines, Sub.	Mrs. Olney Bersch, Jr.	.....
Mrs. B. H. Baxter	Mrs. Norman Mitterling, Jr.	Mrs. Ed Strickland
Mrs. Ray Henderson, Sub.	Mrs. C. L. Stanfield	Mrs. T. J. Abbott
Mrs. Mark Foster, Jr.	J. W. Safley	Mrs. C. H. Francis
.....	J. R. Rankin	.....

THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Council

Dr. and Mrs. F. M. Simmons Patterson, *Advisors*

President: Pete Deichmann

Vice-President: Keith Grady

Secretary: Trudy Walker

Program Chairman: Ann King

Mary Jane Corning

Jimmy Smith

Membership

Reba Grady

Charles Frances, Jr.

David Baxter

Ellen Burnette

Charles Stanfield, Jr.

Jean Morgan

Nancy Burnette

Frank King

Nancy Armstrong

Trish Menius

Stephen Patterson

Dec Ward

Nell Humienny

Isabelle Patterson

Sam Ward

Sherri Safley

Carol Beasley

Joe Stallings

Kenny Baxter

Bobby Marshburn

Beth Corning

Susan Chagaris

PIONEER FELLOWSHIP

Council

Dr. and Mrs. N. M. Baxter, Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Menius, *Advisors*

President: Skipper Safley

Vice-President: David Francis

Secretary: Betsy Ward

Treasurer: Billy Bell

Membership

Stas Humienny

David Morgan

Fredie Kruskie

Jackie Tate

Gary Peterson

Cathey Hackney

Rosemary Rowe

David Stanfield

Anna Key Mason

Julia Allen

Sid Thomas

Bill Lyon

Rickey Bailey

Kerry Lewis

Lane May

JUNIOR CHOIR

Miss Catharine Latta, *Director*

C. H. Francis, *Organist*

Alyce Allen

Jane Howell

Ann Shelton

Julia Allen

Joan Hughes

Alex Shelton

Mary Pickett Allen

Sandra Hughes

Mark Shelton

Jane Baskerville

Elaine Keech

Andy Tate

Eddie Bell

Susan King

Bill Ward

Jimmy Blackerby

James Rankin

Martha Ward

Grier Crawford

Susan Rankin

Marc Pope

Allison Safley

YOUTH TRAINING GROUP

Charles Francis

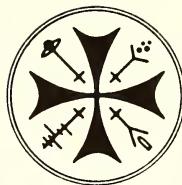
Nell Humienny

Jackie Tate

David Francis

Stas Humienny

Betsy Ward



THE SYMBOL of The Women of The Church represents the basic Christian commitments and responsibilities of women—first and foremost to Christ as indicated by the cross and then to family, congregation, community, and world in the light of the cross.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

OFFICERS—1967

President	Mrs. William A. Sherratt
First Vice President	Mrs. Leland Mason
Second Vice President	Mrs. Donald E. Deichmann
Secretary	Mrs. A. K. Kolb
Treasurer	Mrs. William C. Kellum
Historian	Mrs. Allen P. Olmstead

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Personal Faith and Family Life	Mrs. S. M. Hughes
Christian Community Action	Mrs. N. M. Baxter
Ecumenical Mission and Relations	Mrs. William Rowe
Leadership and Resources	Miss Jane Latham

STANDING COMMITTEES

White Cross	Mrs. Marion B. Evans
Representative to U.C.W.	Mrs. Harry W. Shelton
Flowers	Mrs. Ralph D. Kellum
Hospitality	Mrs. Wm. H. Bell
Visitation	Mrs. J. Alex Meadows
House Keeping	Mrs. Frank G. Almon
Nursery	Mrs. David S. Henderson

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS, WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Mrs. C. H. Hollister	Miss Sadie O'Quinn
Mrs. H. B. Smith	Miss Catherine Latta
Miss Ethel Wood	Mrs. C. B Foy
Mrs. Raymond Pollock	Miss Mary Ward

PAST PRESIDENTS, WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

In various early records The Women of the Church Organizations were called, "The Female Benevolent Sewing Society", The Ladies Missionary Society", "The Woman's Auxiliary" — and now "The Women of the Church" — a complete list of past Presidents is not available, but among those who held this office were:

Miss Elizabeth Taylor, 1830	Mrs. R. E. McClure
Mrs. Wm. Hollister	Mrs. Raymond Pollock
Mrs. E. F Smallwood	Mrs. E. K. Bishop
Mrs. Geo. Allen	Mrs. C. B. Foy
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Ellis	Mrs. H. B. Smith
Mrs. A. S. Seymour	Mrs. O. H. Guion
Mrs. S. K. Eaton	Mrs. Harold Maxwell, Sr.
Mrs. Mary B. Smallwood	Miss Mary Ward
Mrs. Chas. E. Slover	Mrs. Earl P. Smith
Mrs. C. S. Hollister	Mrs. C. H. Francis
Mrs. H. R. Bryan, Jr.	Mrs. L. Grady McCotter, Jr.
Mrs. W. P. M. Bryan	Mrs. Wallace E. Jones
Mrs. T. G. Hyman	Mrs. Marion B. Evans
Mrs. J. G. Gossard	Mrs. Leland Mason
Miss Bessie Hollister	Mrs. Wiley T. Crawford
Mrs. N. M. Gibbs	Mrs. J. A. Meadows
Mrs. W. A. West	Mrs. F. M. Simmons Patterson, 1964-65

PAST ORGANISTS OF THE CHURCH

Mrs. G. B. Guion	Mrs. Raymond Pollock
Mr. Richard Berry	Mrs. R. Atkinson
Mrs. George N. Ives	Mrs. Wm. M Bryan
Miss Carrie Claypool	Miss Catharine Latta
Mrs. Harry Harding	Mrs. Floyd Johnson

CALENDAR—1966-67

OCTOBER “Christian Action and Stewardship”

	Oct.
World-wide Communion Sunday	2
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	4
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	3
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	4
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	4
Church-wide Stewardship Supper	27
Nursery — (Circle # 2)	

NOVEMBER “Stewardship”

	Nov.
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	1
World Community Day, Friday	4
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	8
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	7
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	8
Circle # 6 — 8:P.M.	8
General Meeting — 12:00 Noon	15
(Luncheon Circle # 3)	
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	29
World-wide Bible Reading Season	Nov. 24-Dec. 25
Nursery — (Circle # 3)	

DECEMBER “Ministerial Relief”

	Dec.
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	6
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	5
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	6
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	6
Universal Bible Sunday — (150th Anniversary of the American Bible Society)	11
Candle Light Service and JOY GIFT	18
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	27
Nursery — (Circle # 4)	

JANUARY “Christian Witness at Home and Abroad”

	Jan.
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	10
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	9
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	10
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	10
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	18-25
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	31
Nursery — (Circle # 5)	

FEBRUARY
"Christian Witness at Home and Abroad"

	Feb.
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	7
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	6
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	7
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	7
Beginning of Lent	8
World Day of Prayer	10
General Meeting — Missionary as Speaker....	13
(Luncheon — Circle # 1)	
Week of Prayer and Self-Denial	19-26
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	28
Nursery: (Circle # 6)	

MARCH
"Christian Witness at Home and Abroad"

	Mar.
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	7
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	6
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	7
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	7
Easter	26
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	28
Nursery — (Circle # 2)	

APRIL
"Christian Higher Education"

	Apr.
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	4
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	3
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	4
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	4
Seminary Day	23
General Meeting. (Possibly with Men of the Church). Speaker from Seminary (Circle # 4)	11
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11	25
Nursery — (Circle # 3)	

MAY
"Christian Family Education"

	May
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	2
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	1
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	2
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	2
May Fellowship Day	5
Christian Family Week	7-13
General Meeting — Birthday	9
(Luncheon Circle # 5)	
Program Council 10:00 — Woman's Council 11:00	30
Nursery — (Circle # 4)	

JUNE

“The General Council”
“Board of Woman’s Work, TRAV, Presbyterian Survey”

	June
Montreat Sunday	4
(Prayer for General Assembly)	
General Assembly — Montreat.....	8-13
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	6
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	5
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	6
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	6
Nursery — (Circle # 5)	

JULY

“Christian Citizenship”

	July
Citizenship Sunday	2
Nursery — (Circle # 6)	
No Meetings	

AUGUST

“American Bible Society, Presbyterian Foundation Historical Foundation,
Presbyterian School of Education, Stillman College.”

	Aug.
Program Council 10:00 — Woman’s Council 11:00	29
Nursery — Circle # 2)	

SEPTEMBER

“Christian Teaching”

	Sept.
Circle # 1 — 10:00 A.M.	5
Circle # 2 — 8:00 P.M.	4
Circles # 3, 4 and 5 — 10:00 A.M.	5
Circle # 6 — 8:00 P.M.	5
General Meeting (Annual) — 12:00 Noon	12
(Luncheon Circle # 6)	
Christian Education Week	24-30
Rally Day	24
Program Council 10:00 — Woman’s Council 11:00	26
Nursery — (Circle # 3)	

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization and program of the women of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., is to provide opportunities for women, as individuals and in groups, to grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened as members of HIS BODY in our contemporary world in order that they may understand and fulfill the particular responsibilities they have—

- in the family
- in the congregation
- in the community
- and around the world.

MEN OF THE CHURCH

OFFICERS

Alva J. Waters	President
John N. Peterson	Vice-President
Charles S. Weskett	Secretary-Treasurer
Membership made up of entire male membership of Church.	

SERVICE PERSONNEL

Jimmy Abbott	Richard Johnson, Jr.
Jimmy Chagaris	Mike Minges
Robert Hamilton	Braxton Oliver, Jr.
Thomas Jackson	Wm. E. Sherratt
Richard Johnson, Sr.	Joseph E. Slater, III

Prep. and College Students

James R. Abbott	Charles Jennette
Barbara Bailey	Albert Johnson
Cathy Bailey	Stan Kellum
Hunt Baxter	Karen Kendrick
Jim Baxter	Sally King
Duffy Beasley	Jean Lee
Rosanne Bell	Leo Lewis, Jr.
Mindy Bell	Nola Marshburn
Jim Bryan	Cece May
Dandy Bryan	Haywood May
Joy Carpenter	L. Grady McCotter, III
Bobby Chagaris	Sandy Menius
Breece Daniels	Peter Monte
Mathilde Duffy	Louise Monte
Clarence Gault	Simmons Patterson, Jr.
John Grady	David Patterson
Carl Guthrie	Johnny Peterson
David Hamilton	Rosemary Rhodes
Mary Kay Hand	Tom Sherratt
Rosalie Henderson	Patsy Slater
Cader Howard	Nonie White
Beth Humienny	

THE ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

WORKING AND WORSHIPPING TOGETHER TO THE
GLORY OF GOD

- Abbott, Mrs. T. J.
Abbott, Jimmy
Aberly, Miss Betty
Aberly, Mrs. Jack
Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver H.
Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Ward
Almon, Mr. and Mrs. Frank G.
Anderson, Mrs. Eddie
Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Lee
Atkinson, Billy
Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. F. H.
Baily, Barbara
Baily, Cathy
Barden, Mr. and Mrs. G. A.
Barden, Dr. G. A.
Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M.
Baskerville, Mrs. R. D.
Baxter, Mr. and Mrs. B. H.
Baxter, Hunt
Baxter, David
Baxter, Dr. and Mrs. N. M.
Baxter, Jimmy
Baxter, Kenneth
Beasley, Mr. and Mrs. C. B.
Beasley, Duffy
Beasley, Carole
Bell, Mr. and Mrs. J. R.
Bell, Dr. and Mrs. Wm. H.
Bell, Rozanne
Bell, Mindy
Bell, Billy
Benoit, Mrs. M. J.
Bersch, Mr. and Mrs. Olney, Sr.
Bersch, Mr. and Mrs. Olney, Jr.
Blackerby, Dr. and Mrs. J. N.
Boger, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A.
Bradham, Mr. Caleb
Bryan, Mr. E. King
Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. James S.
Bryan, Jimmy
Bryan, Dandy
Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M.
Bryan, Mr. Charles
Burnette, Mr. and Mrs. G. T.
Burnette, Ellen
Byrne, Mrs. Henry
Campbell, Mrs. Nancy
Cannon, Mrs. Thomas
Capps, Mr. and Mrs. Carl
Carmichael, Mrs. Marion
Carr, Mrs. Helen
Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Primrose
Carpenter, Joy
Carpenter, Martha
Carpenter, Howard
Chagaris, Mr. and Mrs. Peter D.
Chagaris, Jimmy
Chagaris, Bobby
Chagaris, Susan
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Corning, Mary Jane
Corning, Beth
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Crawford, Grier
Curry, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil A.
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Damke, Mrs. Margaret Rose
Daniels, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey J.
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Daniels, Jimmy
Davidson, Mrs. Gerald
Dees, Mr. C. A.
Deichmann, Mr. and Mrs. D. E.
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Duffy, Chas., Jr.
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Epting, Miss Elvia May
Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Marion B.
Evans, Thomas
Ferebee, Mr. Edward B.
Ferebee, Beverly
Ferebee, Elizabeth
Flanner, Mr. and Mrs. W. B.
Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Mark
Foy, Mrs. C. B.
Francis, Mr. and Mrs. C. H.
Francis, Charles
Francis, David
Franks, Mr. and Mrs. H. R.
Freeman, Dr. and Mrs. Robert
Gaskins, Mr. and Mrs. James A.
Gaskins, Jimmy
Gaskins, Mrs. Wm. F.
Gault, Mrs. Clarence

Gault, Clarence Lee
Gause, Dr. Wm. I.
Gause, Mrs. Annie L.
Gibbs, Mrs. Norfleet M.
Gibbs, Norfleet
Grady, Dr. and Mrs. F. M.
Grady, F. M., Jr.
Grady, John
Grady, Keith
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Hanff, John
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Hill, Miss Valeria
Hines, Mrs. B. G.
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Humienny, Nell
Humienny, Stas
Ipock, Mrs. Geo. W.
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Jarvis, Mr. P. O.
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Kellum, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D.
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King, Sally
King, Ann
King, Frank
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DR. DRURY LACY

Minister of this Church, 1834-1838



DR. L. CUMMINGS VASS

Minister of this Church, 1866-1890. Author of Book on the History of the Church. Published 1886.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW BERN

Through various accounts including records of Orange Presbytery, there were undoubtedly efforts made in the New Bern area to establish a Presbyterian Church in the early years of the 1800's. In the **Morning Herald**, a New Bern newspaper of 1808, notice of a subscription for the purpose of erecting a Presbyterian meeting-house appeared. Unfortunately the results of this appeal are unknown.

Various teachers at the New Bern Academy apparently conducted services for New Bern Presbyterians in the homes of persons of Presbyterian persuasion. Among these teachers were James Waddy Thompson and Jonathan Otis Freeman.

The formal organization of the Presbyterian Church in New Bern took place on January 7, 1817 at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Minor, on Craven Street near Pollock. Rev. John Witherspoon brought the organization into being and Dr. Elias Hawes and Robert Hay were made ruling elders. Other original members were Mrs. Eunice Hunt, Mrs. Lydia Stewart, Mrs. Sara Webber, Mrs. Lucretia Bell (afterwards Mrs. John Jones), John Jones, Mrs. Jane Carney, Mrs. Frances Devereaux, Mrs. Mary Dewey, Mrs. Elizabeth Minor, Mrs. Luisa Morning and Mrs. John C. Stanly, a colored member.

There is a possibility that Dr. Jonathan Otis Freeman assisted in the organizational period of the church, and that John Nicholson Campbell served the church as pastor in these early days. Mr. Campbell's stay was a short one for he was appointed chaplain of the national Congress in the fall of 1820 at the age of 22. New Bern's climate did not agree with him.

In 1819 the congregation purchased Lot. No. 309 on New Street from Mr. Edward Graham as a site for a church building. Trustees of the church listed on the deed were Elias Hawes, Edward Graham, Isaac Taylor, John Jones, William Hollister, Vine Allen, Robert Hay, Stephen M. Chester, Robert Primrose, Silvester Brown, E. C. King and Charles Dewey.

Rev. John Nicholson Campbell presided over services marking the laying of the cornerstone of the church on the afternoon of June 9, 1819. Master Masons set the stone in place. A contemporary newspaper account of the service states the church was "to be 70 feet in length and 52 in breadth, and capable, by computation, of accommodating 800 persons." The contractor

and builder of the church was Mr. Uriah Sandy, assisted by Mr. John Dewey and Mr. Martin Stevenson.

Some reports note the completion of the building in little more than a year after construction at a cost of \$7,000. The diary of Catharine G. Stanly, daughter of Mrs. John C. Stanly, and contemporary newspaper accounts reveal the dedication of the new church on January 6, 1822, with Rev. Lemuel Durant Hatch as pastor, who served until December, 1828. Pews in the church were offered for sale or rent in the local paper.

Rev. Michael Osborn, a native of New Jersey, was installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in New Bern in December, 1829. Mr. Osborn served the church less than two years and was succeeded by Rev. Samuel Hurd.

Membership in the church increased through the years, from 54 in 1825, to 66 in 1828, to 68 in 1829, to 93 in 1832, and to 100 in 1833, the year of Mr. Hurd's departure. Great interest and activity seem indicated during Mr. Hurd's pastorate.

After Mr. Hurd's departure for New York in April, 1833, services at the Presbyterian Church were led by men of the congregation who read various printed sermons. The congregation was held together during this period by prayer meetings held in members' homes during the week. Social gatherings were also held in the homes. Among the leaders of the church at this time were Elias Hawes, Robert Hay, John Jones, Thomas Sparrow, Charles Slover, Martin Stevenson and others.

After visiting the New Bern church in September, 1833, Mr. Drury Lacy accepted the call issued in November and began his pastorate here on January 1, 1834, serving until December, 1836. Failure of health prompted Mr. Lacy's resignation, accepted with regret by a committee composed of Hamilton C. Graham, Martin Stevenson, Jr., and Charles Slover. Mr. Lacy later became president of Davidson College and still later, with his wife, opened a girl's school in Raleigh which was incorporated into Peace Institute in 1872.

According to the history of the Presbyterian Church by Mr. L. C. Vass, the years 1837 and 1838 were years marked by the services at irregular intervals of various pastors, some from neighboring towns.

On May 5, 1838, Rev. Daniel Stratton was ordained and installed as pastor. Though evidently in feeble health, he served the church for fourteen years, increasing the membership from 81 to 98 from 1838 to 1852.

During Mr. Stratton's pastorate, the present Manse was purchased from John R. Green for the sum of \$1800. This transaction is dated April 21, 1842 and the trustees of the church at this time were William Hollister, Isaac Taylor, Robert Primrose, Robert Hay, Thomas Sparrow, Martin Stevenson, Jr.,

Charles Slover, Edward E. Graham, Jeremiah N. Allen, Amzi Ayers, and Richard N. Taylor.

John R. Green, a tailor by trade, had obtained one part of lot number 325 from J. R. Donnell for \$450. on February 18, 1819. The second part of the same lot was acquired by Green at auction for \$401. on July 14, 1823. Presumably the Manse was built between 1823 and 1842.

The Presbyterian Church was supplied by Rev. Thomas Frazer in 1852-53. The April, 1854 membership of the church had fallen to 75, including twelve colored, yet a pipe organ was purchased for \$900 during this year. In December, 1854, Rev. Thomas G. Wall was installed as pastor of the church. While touring Europe with his family, April, 1857 to August, 1858, Mr. Wall's pulpit was supplied by Rev. Moses T. Harris, who was later known as Edward Harris. Mr. Wall resumed his pastorate in August, 1858, and served until the summer of 1861, when he returned north after the outbreak of the War between the States.

Lot 308, adjoining the church property, on New Street, was purchased from the estate of Edward Graham for \$905, on March 12, 1856, during Mr. Wall's pastorate. The present Fellowship Hall was built on this lot in 1858 at a cost of \$1500.

During the war, in fact from the summer of 1861 until July, 1866, there were neither pastor nor regular services at the church. Federal forces occupied the Manse and Fellowship Hall, erected wards on the church grounds and in the winter and spring of 1865 used the church itself as a hospital. The Manse served as surgeon's quarters. Two Northern soldiers, one later a member of the church, prevented the tearing up of the pews within the church in favor of an alternate plan; planking over them for beds.

At war's end Congregationalists were allowed to use the Presbyterian Church until Orange Presbytery provided one service per month supplied by various clergy of the Presbytery.

It was not until September, 1866 that the last hospital building was removed from the church property. The property thus reverting to the church was in poor condition and attempts to obtain Federal aid for repairs failed.

To such a dismal setting, Rev. L. C. Vass came as pastor in July, 1866. Because of repairs to the church, Mr. Vass preached his first sermon in the "Lecture-Room" or Fellowship Hall. During the next three years, by sacrificial giving, the small band of members not only spent more than \$3200 on repairs to the church but contributed to the church school, committees of the Assembly and missions as well. And when Mr. Vass took charge of his new congregation, there were only 29 communing members present.

Mr. Vass writes of the extensive repairs done in the church

in 1866, at which time the "old, high and close box-pulpit was removed, and a broad platform with a handsome desk and gas pillars was substituted;" a recess made at the back of the pulpit, later much improved by the addition of some handsome wood-work, and the front of the galleries lowered.

Also included in the 1866 repairs were the addition of a \$300 furnace, carpets and cushions. In 1869 gas fixtures were added in the sanctuary and fencing was installed.

During the years, 1866-69, under Mr. Vass, 57 names were added to the membership rolls of the Presbyterian Church. The register showed 106 names but due to seven deaths and 14 "dismissals," the actual membership was 85, still a healthy increase from 29.

On March 28, 1886, the first three deacons of the Presbyterian Church were ordained. They were Claudius E. Foy, George N. Ives, and Alexander Miller.

Mr. Vass compiled the history of the Presbyterian Church of New Bern, published in 1886. The book also contains the history of New Bern, of other denominations in the area and other interesting sidelights.

Interest may be expressed over the fact that one of the original members of the church, Mrs. J. C. Stanly, was a Negro and an emancipated slave. According to Mr. Vass, colored members were accepted into the church long after the War between the States. In 1878, Mr. Vass was instrumental in bringing about the organization of the Ebernezer Colored Presbyterian Church in New Bern.

Mr. Vass continued his ministry until 1890 and on January 29, 1891, members of the congregation, meeting in the Session House, extended a call to Reverend Charles Graves Vardell, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary.

During the pastorate of Dr. Vardell, the annual reports to Albemarle Presbytery of 1893 gives the pastor's salary as \$1000 and 140 members on the roll. In the report is included the statement "Worldly amusements give us some anxiety." The Manse was valued at \$2500 on the 1894 report.

The minutes of the Session for December 18, 1894 note that Miss Frances Taylor purchased in the name of the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church the lot on the corner of Middle and Neuse (now New) streets, valued at \$2500 in the 1895 annual report. At Miss Taylor's death in 1901, she bequeathed to Davidson College a sum of money sufficient to establish 5½ scholarships paying the college tuition fees and placed the disposal of these in the hands of the Session. Action on various applications for these scholarships can be found in the Session's minutes for years afterwards.

A membership of 135, with three elders and six deacons, was

reported to Albemarle Presbytery in 1896. Added to the report was the statement "... we are sorry to be obliged to report that some of our members have given card parties during the year."

In July, 1896, Mr. Vardell was called to become president of Red Springs Seminary, later Flora MacDonald College and now a part of St. Andrews College. In the fall of that year, a call was extended to Reverend George L. Leyburn, D.D. of Missouri. Dr. Leyburn returned to Missouri in 1900 as Superintendent of Home Missions for the Synod of Missouri. Reverend Harvey Smith Bradshaw served as pastor from 1901 until May, 1905.

In July, 1903, David Congdon gave the iron fence around the church property as a memorial to his wife, Fannie.

Reverend John G. Garth was installed as pastor on February 20, 1906 and served until 1908. During his pastorate, 178 members were reported to Presbytery. The Session changed the time of Sunday School to the afternoon during the winter months and authorized a collection for the poor following every communion service. The "Brotherhood Among Men of the Church for Christian Work" was organized in late 1906. This men's organization today is known simply as the Men of the Church.

The Session throughout this period exerted a great deal of influence upon church life and examined all applicants for membership prior to their acceptance. Members were received from Scotland, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Seattle, Washington and other distant points, noting quite a movement of people.

Dr. James North Howard Summerell began his long pastorate of the New Bern Church in 1908, following Mr. Garth. Soon after his arrival here, the Session was requested by the Presbytery to allow him to preach at Greenville on the first Sunday of each month, for three or four months. Other ministers frequently held services in Kinston, Dover and other points nearby.

The 1911 report to Presbytery notes good attendance at the morning worship service but poor at the evening service. Observance of the Sabbath was becoming lax and parents failed to require their children to prepare their Sunday School lessons prior to Sunday morning. Ten years later the congregation was divided among the elders so that each elder would be responsible for the oversight of certain members of the congregation. Also in 1921 the Session expressed concern over the children of the Sunday School not attending church. With such concern, it does not seem strange to find on September 11, 1921 "Ordered that evening prayer meeting be not omitted during fair week."

The organizations and work of the women of the Presbyterian Church of New Bern are most interesting. One of the earliest societies formed by the ladies was "The Female Benevolent Serving Society." Records are on hand for this society from April 17, 1830 to August 5, 1852. The purposes of this society

were "to aid the missionary cause and to assist indigent young men who have the ministry in view." The ladies met one afternoon per week to make articles such as children's dresses, aprons, bags, pin cushions, collars and cuffs, bed quilts, etc. The constitution stated "A subscription of 50¢ per year for those who do not render their services, and 25¢ for those who do, shall constitute membership." Later a five-cent fine was imposed upon those ladies who missed a work session unless ill or out of town. In 1836 this Female Benevolent Serving Society held its first fair or bazaar. This group also noted in its records a contribution made for the purchase of the Manse.

After the War between the States, the Ladies Serving Society was active. This group made articles for sale to raise money for various worthwhile projects.

In 1885 the Busy Bee Society was formed for the young people. In 1891, honoring Rev. Charles Graves Vardell, the group became known as the "C.G.V. Society." In later years, as newcomers wondered at the meaning of this name, the Ladies Aid Society was formed for the younger ladies. The elder ladies joined the Ladies Serving Society.

Annual bazaars were held until 1927. In the fall of 1915 an Exchange was opened in a downtown store, selling handmade items and operating a delicatessen on Saturdays.

On January 13, 1915, the Women's Auxiliary was formed with five sections: Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Missionary Society, Serving Society, and Ladies Aid Society. Each section reported on its activities at the quarterly meetings of the Auxiliary.

The record states "The regular quarterly meeting of the Auxiliary due to have been held October 1, 1918 was omitted owing to the fact that all churches were closed on account of the epidemic of influenza."

In 1898 the Ladies Aid Society placed the baptismal font in the church as a memorial to Mr. Vass. In 1920 three circles were formed. A fourth circle for business women was organized later. Reports of all of these groups reveal the interest and work of the women in obtaining curtains for Sunday School classrooms, maps for Sunday School, selecting paper for the Lecture Room (Fellowship Hall), planting shrubs on the church grounds, and purchase of a \$40 gas stove. The ladies actively studied Presbyterian mission stations the world over and had frequent correspondence with missionaries, including Dr. and Mrs. William Hollister, missionaries to Korea, and members of this church.

Few circles today could excel Circle II in March, 1936 as its members were entertained at tea aboard the Coast Guard Cutter **Pamlico** by Mrs. Paul B. Cronk, wife of Lt. Cronk, Commander of the vessel.

Through the years the five sections of the Women's Auxiliary have passed on and their work is now performed by the six circles of the Women of the Church.

Records are unavailable for any celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Presbyterian Church in New Bern which might have been held. A program of the 1922 Centennial — the 100th anniversary of the completion of the sanctuary — has been saved. The exercises were held on January 6, 7 and 8, 1922. Friday's program (January 6) featured the presentation of a historical sketch by C. S. Hollister, Jr., an address by Dr. Vardell, sealing of a cornerstone, and a reception. Saturday, the 7th, featured an organ recital by Dr. Vardell. The president of Union Theological Seminary, Reverend W. W. Moore, spoke at the morning worship service on Sunday, January 8. Services were also held at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., completing the observance. Former ministers of the church Messers. Vardell, Bradshaw and Garth attended the services, as well as the son of Mr. L. C. Vass.

In an effort to minister to surrounding areas, the church secured Mr. J. A. Vaché to work in the home mission field, notably at Wildwood, Croatan, Oriental, Vanceboro, Ernul and Fort Barnwell. The Session minutes from 1922 to 1928 are filled with references to Mr. Vaché's work as well as his housing problems, maintenance of his "machine — (a Ford)," etc. A house was constructed for Mr. Vaché in Ghent and a 34' x 50' building for a Sunday School was ordered by the session, at a cost of \$350. In 1923, Mr. Vaché reported on five mission points, at Vanceboro, Rhems, Cove City, Granthams and Ghent.

On January 25, 1925, Grantham's Chapel, a building on one acre of land, was purchased for \$860. Ministers of the New Bern church held services here after the departure of Mr. Vaché in April, 1928 and laymen of the church, particularly the elders, were very active in this project. Setting Grantham's Chapel up as a mission was discussed by the Session in 1941. The property was deeded to Albemarle Presbytery in late 1945 and the Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church was formally organized on November 18, 1945 with 71 charter members.

The present Fellowship Hall was moved back to its present site during the 1923 building program. A total of \$3000 was spent to remodel, move, and paint this building and \$500 was designated for the painting of the sanctuary. The gas jets around the balcony were removed at this time also.

Total contributions for all purposes, reported to Presbytery in 1923, amounted to \$8072. The pastor's salary was now \$2000 and the membership was given as 248. Contributions of \$10,677 and 279 members were reported in 1925, showing a growing church.

Foreign missions, particularly in Korea, took on new meaning for members of the Presbyterian Church at New Bern, as Dr. and Mrs. William Hollister left for Korea in 1928, first serving at Makpo and later in Kunsan. Dr. Hollister managed the hospital and Mrs. Hollister taught school at each station. Letters from the Hollisters were frequently read at various meetings of the women's groups. The Hollisters were received back into the church April 17, 1938.

The resignation of Dr. Summerell was read at the Session meeting of December 30, 1928, then discussed and tabled. At a congregational meeting on February 10, 1929, Dr. Summerell's resignation was accepted and he retired from the ministry.

Reverend Robert Edwin McClure was called on August 7, 1929. Dissatisfied with the proposed salary of \$2400, Dr. McClure accepted the call with a salary of \$2700 plus \$100 for moving expenses.

During these years of the Great Depression the church constantly struggled with finances. Effects of the times can be seen in the annual reports to Albemarle Presbytery. In 1925, contributions totalled \$10,677 with a membership of 279. The report for the year ending March 31, 1930 showed 234 members and Dr. McClure's salary had been lowered to \$2223. The March, 1931 report showed a salary increase to \$2700, and \$8000 in total contributions. The 1932 report listed contributions at \$6223.

In May, 1931 the Session noted that due to the financial condition of the church, it would be impossible to send the young people to conferences at both Davidson College and Washington, N. C. Due to the lesser expense, the young people went to Washington.

During this period the church buildings were "tendered Tabernacle Baptist Church without cash." A March 6, 1936 petition requested the government to use other than the New and Middle Street site for a new post office.

Vesper services were held for the young people on Sunday evenings. The Christian Endeavor Society had been organized in 1906. Previous to this, in 1885, the Busy Bee Society was organized, probably for young girls who made various articles which were sold. Thus the youth had been organized for some years. The Session in March, 1932 authorized the Treasurer "to pay the cost not exceeding \$2.00 per Sunday for a supper for the Young People for a period of three months beginning April 1st."

Also in 1932 it was necessary for the Session to reduce the pastor's salary to \$2100 "until conditions changed for the better." Unfortunately conditions were to get a good bit worse before they got better. A record low for this Depression period was

reported March 31, 1934 with \$4833 listed as total contributions, and \$1800 for the pastor's salary. The 1936 report showed contributions of \$5355 and \$1825 for the pastor's salary. The pastor's salary was \$1760 on the March, 1937 report, \$1790 in 1938, \$1850 in 1939 but back to \$1800 in 1940. Total contributions for the same years were in the \$5000-\$6000 range.

In 1933 the New Bern Historical Society was granted permission to place a historical marker on the Manse as the site of the birthplace of Gabriel J. Rains, inventor of the torpedo.

A quarterly newspaper, "The Presbyterian Messenger" was begun in March, 1934. Dr. McClure served as editor with Mrs. E. K. Bishop and Mr. D. L. Latta as associate editors. The Session stipulated the paper was not to cost over \$100 per year and the Board of Deacons advanced \$25 for the first issue.

On October 18, 1936 a meeting of the congregation was held to hear the offer of Mrs. Leo H. Harvey of Kinston to restore the original pulpit in the sanctuary as a memorial to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Hyman. Interest in such a restoration was prompted by an article in the June, 1934 *Christian Herald*, describing the restoration of the Congregational Church of Litchfield, Connecticut. The Litchfield church was strikingly similar to the New Bern church and was seven years later in construction. Both churches had been built in Wren-inspired designs.

In time, Daniel D. Merrill, of the New York architectural firm of Merrill, Humble and Taylor, came to New Bern to appraise the situation. With Dr. McClure, Mr. Merrill was able to find many markings of the original pulpit beneath the 1866 pulpit. Upon his return to New York, Mr. Merrill drew plans for the restoration which were in time executed by local craftsmen. One door to the pulpit, a portion of the pulpit rail and half of the curved, ~~and the~~ pine communion table were found during the restoration.

A newspaper clipping dated January 15, 1937 states that services would again be held in the sanctuary after completion of the pulpit restoration, painting and installation of a new furnace. An article by Mr. Merrill and Dr. McClure telling of the work appeared in the June, 1939 issue of the *Christian Herald*.

A rotary plan of the election of ruling elders and deacons was adopted by the congregation in March, 1937. In February, 1940 membership of the Session was increased to nine.

The Session extended congratulations to the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church upon its 60th anniversary at their October 16, 1939 meeting. Interest in the work at Grantham's Chapel was also shown. Dr. McClure was holding evening services there two Sundays per month.

In the early 1940's, the Session approved the employment of various Seminary students for summer work, the salary paid to Monroe Wicker in 1940 being \$100 plus room and board. This year also saw repairs made on the Manse.

The entry of the United States into World War II and the proximity of Camp Lejeune and later Cherry Point opened the Sunday School building to servicemen and led to the work of Mrs. T. J. Marriner as church secretary and visitor. The work of Chaplain Marshall W. Doggett among the servicemen is also noted in minutes of the Session.

On February 21, 1943, Dr. McClure informed the Session of his call to become Executive Secretary of Asheville Presbytery. Dr. McClure preached his final sermon on April 11 and the Pulpit committee began their search for a new minister.

Realizing the necessity of offering a minister more than \$1800 per year, the Session fixed the proposed salary at \$3000 and in November, 1943, extended a call to Reverend Hubert Morris of Chatham, Virginia.

Preaching at Grantham's Chapel, adding four classrooms to the plant there, the work of the Recreation Center, with an attendance of 700 for April, 1945, the purchase of war bonds by the treasurer were all highlights of the closing years of World War II and the opening years of Mr. Morris's pastorate. Church membership reached 300 in the 1944 report to Presbytery; 346 in 1945.

Post-war expansion, certainly in planning, hit the Presbyterian Church too. A survey of the DeGraffenreid Park — Colonial Heights area was made in 1945. This led to the organization on May 9, 1948 of the West New Bern Presbyterian Church with fourteen of our members being dismissed to be charter members of the new church. Reverend R. T. Baker, who came from Mecklenburg Presbytery to work in this area in 1947, was first pastor of the church.

Expansion of work and planning was further evidenced by employment of a Director of Religious Education and the establishment of a Church Building and Expansion Fund in 1946. The Men's Bible Class was organized on Easter Sunday, 1946 also.

In late 1949 the congregation agreed to employ an architect to draw plans for a new educational building. Preliminary plans drawn by Mr. Courtney S. Walton, Richmond architect, were approved in February, 1950, and construction soon followed. The building was first used in December, 1951.

During much of the building program, the church was without a minister. Mr. Morris accepted a call to Covington, Virginia in February, 1950. A call was extended to Reverend J. Murphy Smith on May 6, 1951, and he arrived June 5, 1951.

Repairs to the Manse are mentioned frequently in minutes of the Session. A new oil burner was included in 1950 repairs totalling \$3500. In 1957 the congregation was given a choice to further repair the Manse or advertise for bids for a possible sale of the property. Some months later it was agreed to repair the Manse rather than dispose of it.

A rotary plan for Elders and Deacons was adopted by the congregation on May 21, 1950. Evidently the 1937 adoption of such a plan had not been implemented.

Permission was granted to the New Bern City Schools to use four classrooms of the new Educational Building for the 1953-54 school year. Under the sponsorship of the local Ministerial Association a first grade school was operated at the church from 1955 to 1961 for those whose 6th birthday came between October 15th and January 1st.

In 1958 white pews with dark trim and cushions were purchased for the sanctuary. The box pews had been removed in 1894 and are now in use at the Pollocksville Presbyterian Church. Some pews of the 1840 period were installed following the removal of the original ones in 1894.

Efforts to purchase a Casavant Feres organ were unsuccessful due to high cost and in 1962 a used Pilcher organ, completely reworked, was installed.

In 1964 a capital program of improvements and repairs was undertaken. A new heating system and air conditioning was installed in the sanctuary. Rewiring and installation of a colonial brass chandelier with 36 lights and wall sconces, in keeping with the Wren-inspired design were completed. Other repairs were done on the Manse, Educational Building and Fellowship Hall.

A maintenance schedule has since been adopted by the Board of Deacons by which certain maintenance items will be taken care of each year, spreading out the work over the years and avoiding great expenditures during any one year.

The recent years have witnessed a growth in the church in members, and in budget items, both for current expenses and benevolences. Seminary students have been employed for summer work with our young people. The Women of the Church has been very active in many areas of church life.

Looking back over 150 years of history, there are lessons to be learned and certainly ample inspiration to carry on in the future. With pride in the past, the First Presbyterian Church of New Bern must seek vitality in the future.

Donald Ransone Taylor

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